



AVID READERS who make good use of library materials are, from left, Arline Reddy and Mary Constance Keefe of Cohasset Knoll Nursing Home and on the right,



Burnett Berson, Mae Cox and Margaret O'Connor, also of the Knoll residency. (Epstein photos)

Put in 2557 Hours

Library Volunteers Are Workhorses

By Judy Epstein

The volunteers of the Cohasset Library put in a staggering number of hours last year — 2557, all totaled — time equal to that of over one and half full-time employees.

This service, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, deserves and commands hearty credit, not only for the man-hours put in, but for the countless moments of plea-

sure given to others.

One of the activities that exemplifies the volunteer service is the selecting and delivering of books to nursing homes in Cohasset on a bi-weekly basis. Ellie James, coordinator of volunteers for the Friends and a circulation desk volunteer herself, spoke of the program with enthusiasm. "It is more to the residents than just reading books," she said, "It is a visit with the community."

The volunteers begin their day of service first thing in the morning at the library by selecting two or three books per resident. The selection process is facilitated by keeping a record of what has been read by residents, noting their desired reading categories such as mysteries or biographies, filling specific requests and also by simply guessing what somebody might like to read.

Mrs. Faith Cook, a resident at Ripley Road, said that she enjoys historical novels; lately she has been reading the large print copies of Reader's Digest because she enjoys the variety they offer. Ida McNurland, also at Ripley Road, is a Jean Plaidy enthusiast. "I always use the service," she attested, "I read about four books each time."

Usually the rounds take a couple of hours to complete; this time is used to dispense new books, retrieve the ones already read, and to visit, chit-chat and get to know the residents. Most of the readers using the service are avid readers and complete two or three books in a two-week period.

The volunteers, or visitors, make their rounds to Cohasset Knoll Nursing Home on Tuesdays and Ripley Road Nursing Home on Thursdays. Pat Gwinn, Dorothy Walinsky and Dorothy Candella constitute the Knoll volunteers and Betty Hunt and Vi Tuthill travel together to the Ripley Road Home.

Probably one of the most important aspects of the service is the devotion of the volunteers. Library director Richard Hayes, said, "The volunteers have a great sense of commitment. They rarely miss a time. They switch assignments if they have to be absent."

Their dedication is easily confirmed: Hunt and Tuthill represent the first and only library volunteers to Ripley Road for the past five years. Each of the Knoll group has been at it two or three years;

they were formerly joined by Alice Weeks, who worked in the service since its inception nine years ago.

Hayes also said that others who can't get in to the library, are able to avail themselves of this service. A volunteer can be scheduled to bring books to residences.

Donna McGee, president of the Friends, was excited over this year's 25 per cent increase in volunteer service —

there are now 20 to 24 volunteers partaking in various aspects of library work. This increase reflects new attraction within the library itself as well as in its outside activities, since its renovation which was completed in January 1978.

The community's appreciation of the volunteer service surely mirrors the pride and involvement of those working selflessly in library services.

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